



Family Division Newsletter

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Summer 2006

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIVISION CHAIR

Dear Family Division Members,

I hope you are having a peaceful, productive, and fun summer. As the summer meetings are fast approaching, this newsletter brings to your attention opportunities for involvement with the Family Division, our members’ successes, and all of the Family Division’s great sessions for you to attend in Montréal. Just a reminder, the meetings are at the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure from August 10-12. Please make sure you are registered for the meetings and have made hotel reservations at the conference hotel.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Family Division’s Reception, co-sponsored with many other divisions, on Thursday, August 10th from 6:30-7:30pm in room Le Portage. Also, please support the AIDS Fundraiser/Reception also on Thursday, August 10th from 9:00-11:00pm in room Le Portage.

This year we have been very fortunate to have Ebonie Cunningham edit our newsletters. I am happy to announce that Ebonie graduated in May with her Ph.D. in Sociology from Purdue University. To add to her exciting news, Ebonie married Mr. Anthony Stringer in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 15th. And if that’s not enough good news for one person, Ebonie will be starting her new job, a tenure-track position at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, in the fall. Please join me in thanking Dr. Cunningham for her great work on the newsletters and in congratulating her on her wonderful news!

Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter. And don’t forget to attend the Family Divisions’ sessions and meetings!!

Respectfully,

Nancy Mezey
Division Chair

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Perhaps the most inviting and exciting aspect of SSSP is the opportunity for everyone – graduate students, community activists, and faculty members – to get involved with the various divisions.

Please accept this invitation to get involved with the Family Division’s activities by joining us in Montreal on Thursday, August 10th between 4:30 and 6:10 in Fontaine C. Attending will give you the opportunity to propose paper sessions (that you can organize and/or chair if you want) for next year’s meetings, discuss resolutions, become a reviewer for the Family Division’s Graduate Student Paper Competition, or just meet other members and hear about they’re doing in the field. We hope to see you there!

SHARING OUR SUCCESSES

Many of our division members are making important contributions to their fields. These successes are evidenced by the impact that they are making in academia and the community. If you would like to share information about your recent accomplishments with other division members, please contact Nancy Mezey (nmezey@monmouth.edu).

Awards:

Pamela Ray Koch. 2006 Winner of the Family Division’s Student Paper Competition

Pamela Ray Koch is a doctoral student in the University of South Carolina's Sociology Department. Her award winning paper, “Blood is not Always Thicker than Water: Parental Discipline of Adopted and Biological Children” examines whether adopted, biological, and stepparents discipline children differently. Koch found no differences between adopted and biological parents but did find that having a stepfather in the home increased the number of spankings a child received. She will be presenting her paper at the SSSP meetings in Montréal on Friday, August 11, 12:30-2:10 in the Longueuil room.

Books:

DeKeseredy, Walter & Perry, Barbara. 2006. *Advancing Critical Criminology: Theory and Application*. : Lexington Books. DeKeseredy and Perry have assembled a volume that provides scholars with an in-depth review of the extant literature on several major branches of criminology as well as examples of how critical criminologists apply their theoretical perspectives to substantive topics, such as drugs, interpersonal violence, and rural crime. Accordingly, this work is divided into two main sections: overviews of theories and applications. Each chapter provides a summary of work in a specific area, along with suggestions for moving the field forward.

Hertz, Rosanna. fall 2006. *Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women Are Choosing Parenthood without Marriage and Creating the New American Family*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press. A remarkable number of women today are taking the daunting step of having children outside of marriage. In *Single By Chance, Mothers By Choice*, Rosanna Hertz offers the first full-scale account of this fast-growing phenomenon, revealing why these middle class women took this unorthodox path and how they have managed to make single parenthood work for them. Hertz interviewed 65 women who speak candidly about how they manage their lives and families as single

mothers. What Hertz discovers are not ideologues but reluctant revolutionaries, women who--whether straight or gay--struggle to conform to the conventional definitions of mother, child, and family. Having tossed out the rulebook in order to become mothers, they nonetheless adhere to time-honored rules about child-rearing. As they tell their stories, they shed light on their paths to motherhood, describing how they summoned up the courage to pursue their dream, how they broke the news to parents, siblings, friends, and co-workers, how they went about buying sperm from fertility banks or adopting children of different races. They recount how their personal and social histories intersected to enable them to pursue their dream of motherhood, and how they navigate daily life. What does it mean to the 'single' in terms of romance and parenting? How do women juggle earning a paycheck with parenting? What creative ways have women devised to shore up these families? How do they incorporate men into their child-centered families? This book provides concrete, informative answers to all these questions.

Articles:

Grahame, Kamini Maraj. 2006. "Shifting Arrangements: Indo-Trinidadian women, globalization and the restructuring of family life." *Sociological Spectrum*, 26, pp. 1-28. This article focuses on the changing relationships between East-Indian daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law in a developing society, Trinidad, West Indies. Changes in how families are structured are seen as active responses to processes of globalization. While these changes have provided younger women with opportunities to resist older arrangements, their responses have in turn created new problems that remain unresolved. I argue that these families' experiences of change are linked to a complex of relations that includes increased access to education, changes in the village economy, and global media penetration, all of which are part of broader processes of modernization and globalization. The study draws on ethnographic fieldwork as well as census data and economic, educational, and demographic changes since World War II.

Perry, Robin. 2006. "Do Social Workers Make Better Child Welfare Workers Than Non-Social Workers?" *Research on Social Work Practice*, 16, pp. 392-405. This article empirically examines whether the educational background of child welfare workers in Florida impacts on performance evaluations of their work. It draws on a proportionate, stratified random sample of supervisor and peer evaluations of child protective investigators and child protective service workers. ANOVA procedures are used to test if performance scores on a multitude of items differ for workers with university degrees in social work, psychology, sociology, criminology, education, business, and other fields. The study found that the ratings of social workers' skills and competency do not statistically differ from those workers with other educational backgrounds on 20 measures of performance. The findings suggest that the educational background of child welfare workers is a poor predictive variable of their performance as evaluated by supervisors and peers.

Perry, Robin. 2006. "Competency is Not Guaranteed by the Letters that Follow Your Name: A Response to My Critics." *Research on Social Work Practice*, 16, pp. 438-448. Given the potential controversy associated with the findings of the research findings summarized in the article above, the journal editor invited nine leaders in the social work field to write critiques of the article and findings. This article is the author's rebuttal to those nine responses. Although written as a faculty member at Florida State University, Dr. Perry is now an Associate Professor at Florida A&M University.

Presentations and Other Successes:

Bune, Karen L. Ms. Bune will be a speaker at the national/international conference of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals in Anaheim, California in August where she will be speaking to 600-700 law enforcement officials. She will be speaking on the topic, "Domestic Violence: Understanding the Problem, Dealing with the Issues."

Ms. Bune was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation by the Alexandria, Va. Library System for her participation in their staff day where she was a speaker on the topic of "Hostile Work Environments and Workplace Harassment." Ms. Bune is employed as a Victim Specialist in the domestic violence unit of the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, Md. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Ms. Bune is also a national consultant on victim issues, a national public speaker and trainer, and a writer for NYCOP magazine. She can be reached at kbune@gmu.edu

Hacker, Helen M. is participating in the summer 2006 Special Studies catalog of the Chautauqua Institution for a course called "Same-Sex Marriage in Sociological Perspective."

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Below is a list of all of the Family Division sponsored and co-sponsored sessions. Please support your fellow division members and attend as many Family Division sessions as you can. Be sure to check the final program for any room or time changes.

FAMILY DIVISION SPONSORED SESSIONS

- Session 18:** **Family Policy**; Thursday, August 10, 10:30-12:10,
Room: La Verrière; Organizer: Robert Leibson Hawkins
- Session 26:** **Domesticity and Division of Labor**; Thursday, August 10, 12:30-2:10
Room: La Verrière; Organizer: Amy L. Hequembourg
- Session 56:** **Families in Diverse Communities (THEMATIC)**; Friday, August 11, 12:30-2:10;
Room: St-Michel; Organizer: Cheryl Boudreaux

SPECIAL SESSION

- Session 57:** **Student Award Winning Papers I** - Friday, August 11, 12:30-2:10;
Room: Longueuil; "Blood is not Always Thicker than Water: Parental Discipline of Adopted and Biological Children," Pamela Ray Koch, University of South Carolina, Winner of the Family Division's Student Paper Competition

FAMILY DIVISION CO-SPONSORED SESSIONS

- Session 61:** **Work, Family, and Social Class** (with Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division);
Friday August 11, 2:30-4:10, Room: Fontaine A; Organizer: E. Brooke Kelly
- Session 82:** **Threats to Academic Freedom: Academic Freedom and the Commercial Juggernaut in Canadian Universities** (with Institutional Ethnography Division and the Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication, and Teaching Committee);
Saturday, August 12, 8:30-10:10; Room: Fontaine A; Organizer: Marilee Reimer

- Session 94: Gender and Violence I** (with Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division and the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division); Saturday, August 12, 10:30-12:10; Room: Fontaine B; Organizer: Stephen J. Morewitz
- Session 105: Gender and Violence II** (with Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division and the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division); Saturday, August 12, 12:30-2:10; Room: Fontaine B; Organizer: Stephen J. Morewitz
- Session 109: Families Across the Lifespan** (with Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division); Saturday, August 12, 12:30-2:10; Room: St-Michel; Organizer: Heather Dillaway
- Session 119: Families: Criminal Justice and Sexualities** (with Law and Society Division); Saturday, August 12, 2:30-4:10; Room: St-Michel; Organizer: Ebonie L. Cunningham